



## Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

### Road Reconstruction and Re-opening Update

Emergency repairs to Forest Road 39, a part of the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway located in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, were completed in December 2010. The road was open to travel for a few weeks before winter snow fall closed the road for the season. The popular route generally opens to vehicle travel from Wallowa County on the north through to Baker County on the southern end in early summer.

The first phase of the repair project constructed a two-lane gravel surface road in the damaged sections. As the road becomes accessible this year, crews will be checking to see if the road held up through winter and spring snow runoff.

The repaired sections of the road currently have a gravel surface. Once the snow melts off the road the paving phase will begin, probably mid-June or early July. Federal Highways Administration funds will be used to pave the reconstructed sections. Visitors using the road may encounter delays during the paving project.

In June 2010 heavy rainfall in northeastern Oregon caused flooding in many areas resulting in damage to roads, trails and other recreation sites on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The North Pine Creek area north of Halfway severely flooded, damaging major sections of Forest Road 39. The summer route was closed to all vehicle traffic from approximately 1.4 miles north of State Highway 86 for 7 miles up to the Lake Fork Bridge.

By the end of June 2010, the Forest announced that it was working with the Federal Highways Administration and Oregon Department of Transportation to begin the repairs to Forest Road 39. The byway road was designated as the highest priority for emergency funding.



June 2010 - Major sections of road damaged



June 2010 - Flooding of North Pine Creek



October 2010 - Phase 1 road repair begins



Dec. 2010 - Phase 1 road repair completed